

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to thank you for your robust support of the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program in the recent omnibus funding package, and to urge you to continue your history of bipartisan support for CHGME funding for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19).

The CHGME program is the largest and most important federal investment in strengthening the pediatric healthcare workforce, and has been recognized as a major success. Created by Congress in 1999, the CHGME program has helped address the gap in federal support for pediatric training by increasing the number of pediatric providers, addressing critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improving children's access to health care. Your subcommittee has acknowledged the relevance and success of CHGME through prior appropriations above the current authorization level, and we urge you to provide CHGME with the funding support necessary not just to maintain the gains made under this program over the last decade, but to continue to grow our pediatric workforce, in FY19.

While the CHGME program has helped make great strides toward a more robust pediatric workforce, serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist. Additional continued funding is essential to maintaining the pediatric workforce pipeline in the future. Through supplementary, robust investment in our nation's future pediatric providers, we can ensure high quality care for generations to come. CHGME is a critical investment in our country's medical future and will help ensure children maintain access to the specialized care they need in communities across the country.

We recognize that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities and we appreciate the Subcommittee's past leadership in investing in the healthcare of all children. We encourage you to continue to provide CHGME with the robust funding necessary to grow our pediatric workforce in the years to come in FY19.

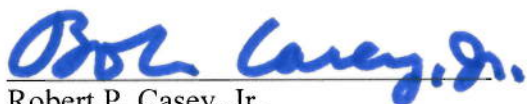
Sincerely,



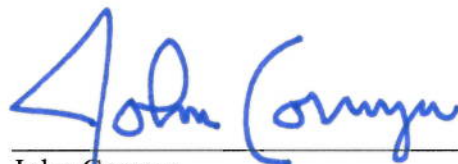
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



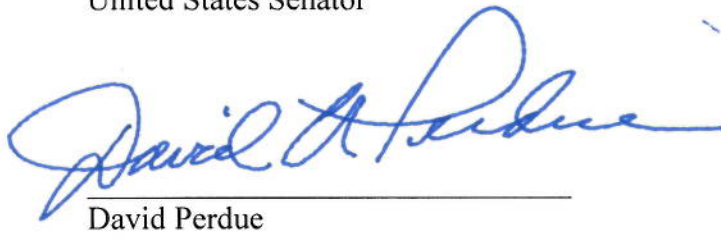
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



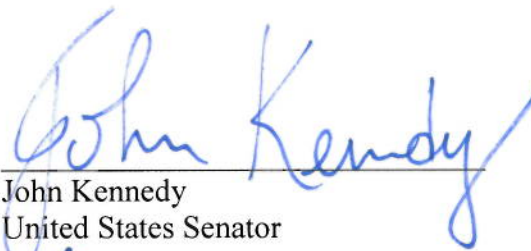
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



David Perdue
United States Senator



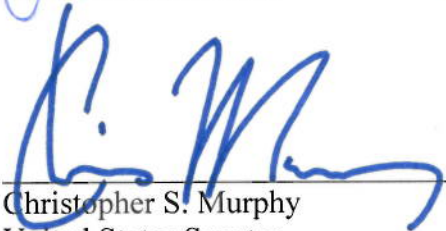
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



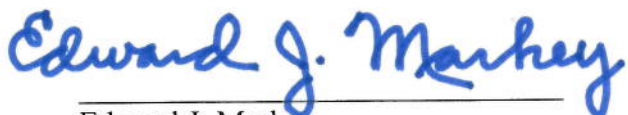
John Kennedy
United States Senator



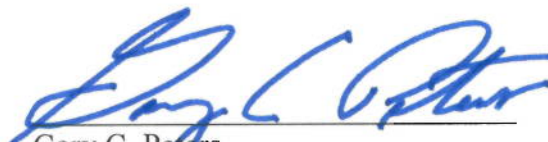
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



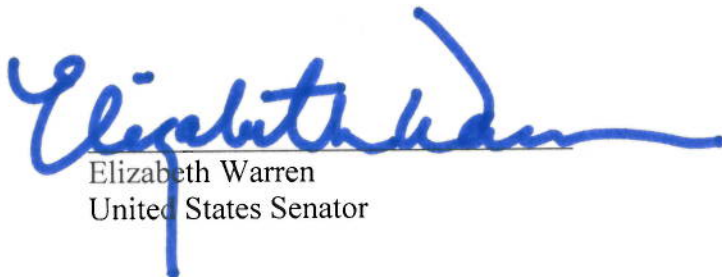
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



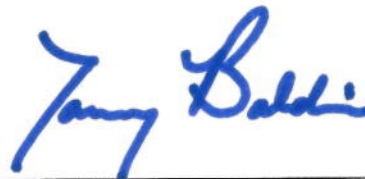
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



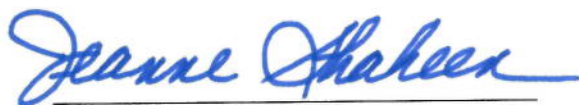
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



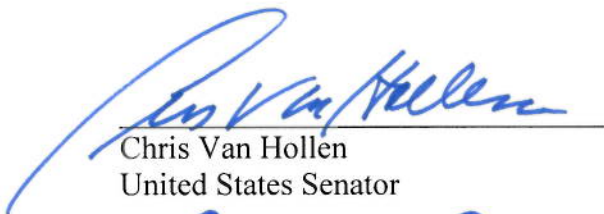
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



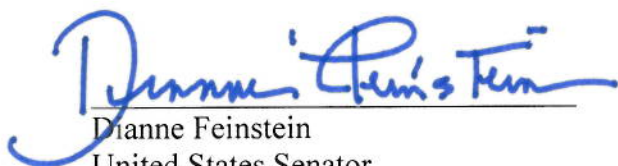
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



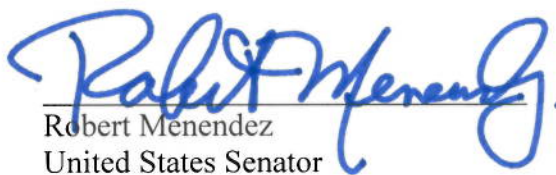
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



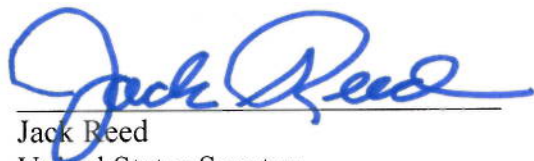
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



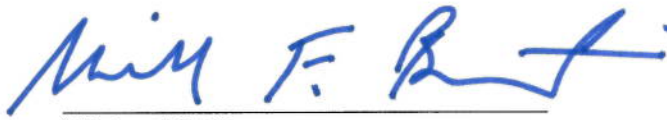
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



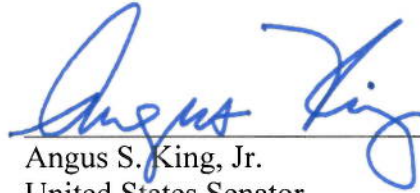
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator